

How Will the Application Process Work in Alaska?

What applications will be available?

Alaska has developed a state-designed alternative to the Secretary's single streamlined application, which allows people to apply for health coverage in the new Federally-facilitated Marketplace ("Marketplace"), Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program ("CHIP") all at once. Alaska will also have a multi-benefit paper application which allows people to apply for programs like SNAP and cash assistance along with health coverage on a combined application. Alaska's application contains a few questions that household members who don't want health coverage for themselves shouldn't have to answer and a few questions that are not needed for eligibility determinations. These questions will be removed from the on-line application in 2014, and in the meantime, instructions on the application will let people know whether questions can be skipped and whether or not the answers affect eligibility.

What are the different ways people can apply in Alaska?

People will be able to apply starting October 1. The on-line application will be available November 1. The paper versions of the 2013 Medicaid and new single, streamlined applications will be available at offices and on-line for download October 1, and these applications will be accepted in person, by fax and by mail. Alaska will accept phone and in person applications (without an accompanying on-line or paper application) in early November.

How will the on-line application work?

When people apply on-line, they will start by answering some standard questions (for example, name and address). As they continue, questions will appear based on their prior answers, so they will only have to answer questions that are relevant to them.

Once the application is submitted, people will get instructions on what they need to do next. Starting January 1, 2014, in some cases, people will be able to get an answer indicating whether they are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP while they are still on-line.

What if an applicant is found not eligible for Medicaid or CHIP – will the application automatically be sent to the Marketplace for review, or does the applicant have to do something more?

Applications for people determined not eligible for Medicaid or CHIP by the State agency will be automatically transmitted to the Marketplace for review. Right now, Alaska expects to be able to transfer this information to the Marketplace starting mid-October. This should give the Marketplace time to finish processing the application in time for the individual to get coverage starting on January 1, 2014 (which is the first date that coverage is available in the Marketplace).

Applicants will need to go to healthcare.gov to open an account in the Marketplace; they can do this as soon as they find out their application will be transferred, to help expedite the processing at the Marketplace.

What will happen if an applicant is determined or assessed eligible for Medicaid by the Marketplace?

Will the application automatically be sent to the Medicaid or CHIP program, or will the applicant have to do something more?

The Marketplace will send the application to the State Medicaid or CHIP Program without the person having to do anything. Alaska will start receiving those applications from the Marketplace on November

1. Applicants should hear from the State Medicaid or CHIP program shortly after that.